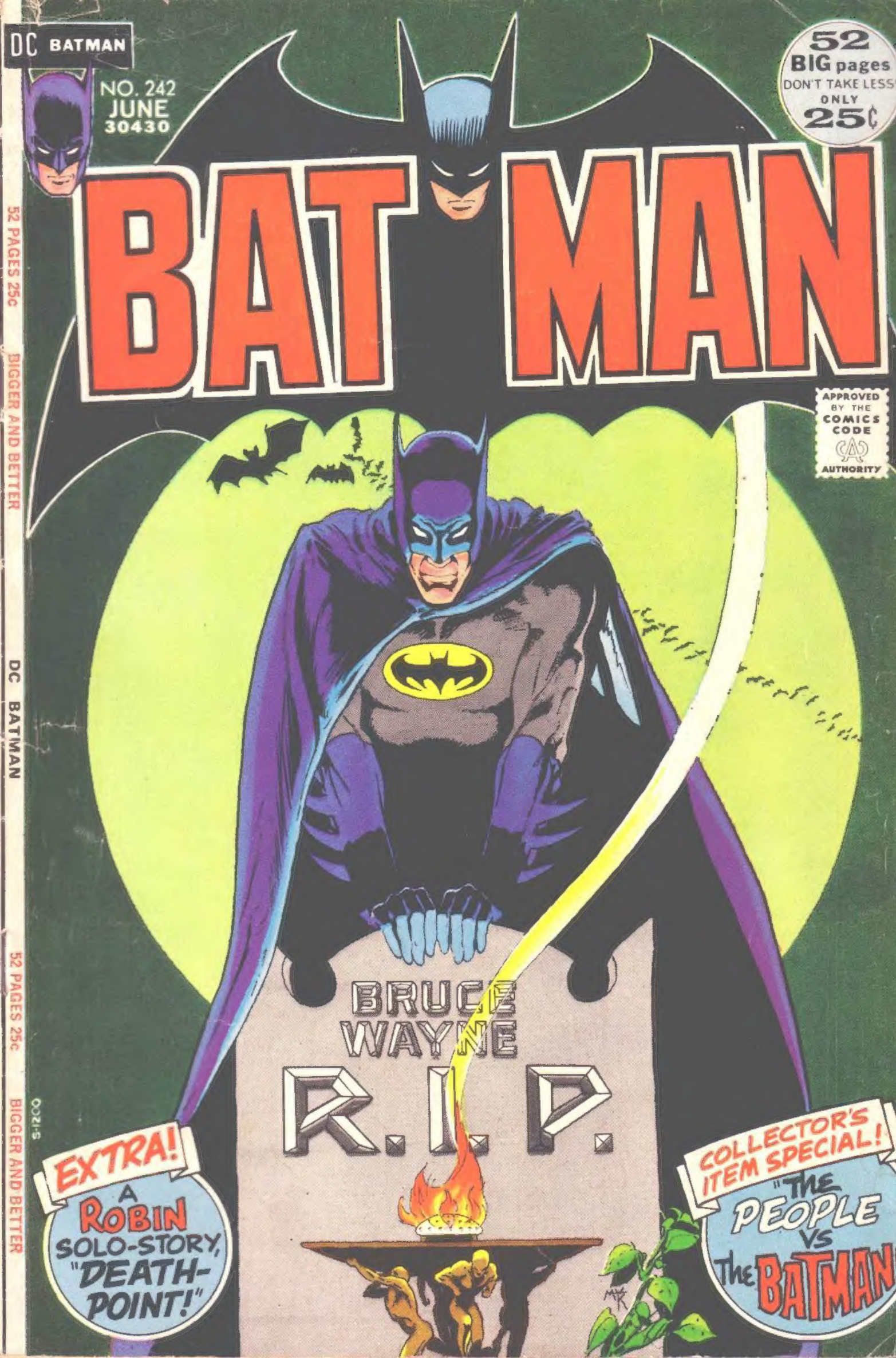
DC BATMAN
NO. 242
JUNE
30430
52
BIG pages
DON'T TAKE LESS
ONLY
25¢
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BRUCE WAYNE
R.I.P.
EXTRA!
A ROBIN SOLO-STORY, "DEATH-POINT!"
COLLECTOR'S ITEM SPECIAL!
"THE PEOPLE VS THE BATMAN"
52 PAGES 25c
BIGGER AND BETTER
DC BATMAN
52 PAGES 25c
BIGGER AND BETTER

BEGINNING THE MOST SENSATIONAL... THE MOST DANGEROUS... AND CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVENTURE IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OF THE...

# BATMAN

# BRUCE WAYNE--REST IN PEACE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL ~ ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO ~ EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

AT THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE...
THE GOTHAM NEWS
15¢
BRUCE WAYNE VANISHES!
MILLIONAIRE BELIEVED DEAD IN JUNGLE PLANE CRASH!
IT'S TRAGIC, BATMAN... TRAGIC THAT WAYNE SHOULD DIE--SO YOUNG... AND SO SENSELESSY--!
HE WAS ONE MILLIONAIRE WHO USED HIS WEALTH--INSTEAD OF LETTING IT USE HIM!
I WONDER WHY HE DARED FLY A SMALL PLANE OVER THAT JUNGLE--ALONE?
WAYNE ALWAYS WAS A BIT HEADSTRONG!

**Editor's Note:** THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS PARTICULAR STORY--ONE OF A SERIES TO APPEAR IN FORTHCOMING ISSUES--ACTUALLY OCCUR AFTER THE BATMAN/BRUCE WAYNE STORIES CURRENTLY RUNNING IN DETECTIVE COMICS, JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, ETC.

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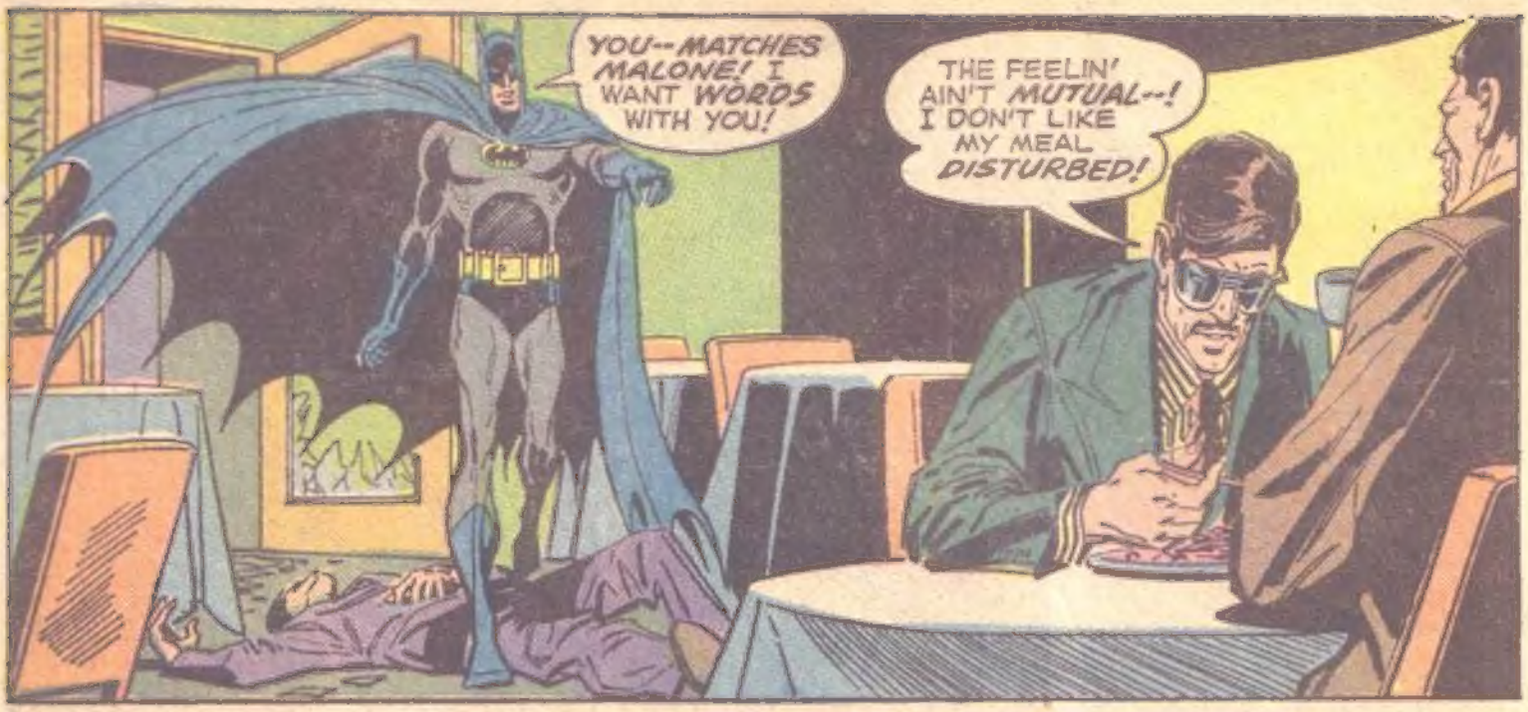
HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW BRUCE WAYNE?
SLIGHTLY! I'LL MISS HIM... I GUESS!
THEN YOU'LL ATTEND HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GOTHAM CHAPEL?
I'M AFRAID NOT, COMMISSIONER! I'VE GOT BUSINESS OUT OF TOWN... OUT OF THE COUNTRY, IN FACT!
I MAY BE GONE SEVERAL MONTHS!
ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?
I ONLY WISH YOU COULD, SIR! BUT NO... THIS IS MY TASK-- MINE ALONE!
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I RETURN--
--IF I RETURN.
I HATED TO LIE! IT WAS NECESSARY, THOUGH! -- NECESSARY FOR BRUCE WAYNE TO DISAPPEAR--
-- BECAUSE THE WAR I'M WAGING IS AGAINST SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WAYNE IS THE BATMAN!
AND I CAN'T CHANCE HIS STRIKING AT ME THROUGH MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY!
2

WHAT'S MORE, I'VE COME TO REALIZE I'LL NEVER BEAT HIM ALONE... THE MOST GALLING ADMISSION I'VE EVER HAD TO MAKE!
GOT TO SWALLOW MY PRIDE... AND RECRUIT HELP!
MY FIRST RECRUIT IS HAVING A LATE DINNER AT HIS FAVORITE CAFE--!
I CAN TELL... ONE OF HIS GOONS IS KEEPING WATCH AT THE DOOR!
I SUSPECT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF VIOLENCE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS--
CAFE
--I MAY AS WELL BEGIN IT NOW!
CAFE
THE BATMAN--?!
WO-KK!
K-RAWSH!
3


YOU--MATCHES MALONE! I WANT WORDS WITH YOU!
THE FEELIN' AIN'T MUTUAL--! I DON'T LIKE MY MEAL DISTURBED!

WHAT I PAY YA FOR, SLUGGO... TO SIT EATIN' PIZZA WHILE A CREEP DISTURBS ME?
COOL HIM!
SWAP!

QUICK-DRAW ARTISTS YOUR BODYGUARDS AREN'T, MALONE--!
THEY'RE FOREVER REACHING FOR HARDWARE--

--YET SOMEHOW THEY CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT CLEAR!-- EVER!
WOMPP!

YOU CAN'T RUN FAR ENOUGH, MALONE... OR FAST ENOUGH!
I'M SURE GONNA GIVE IT A TRY!
KITCHEN EMPLOYEES ONLY.

HEY--!
EXIT
...ESCAPE...
LOCKED!
OUGH!
G-GET BACK---
EXIT
NO!
BLAM!
HE'S... D-DEAD!
5

EARLY THE FOLLOWING AFTER-NOON, AT A LARGE, MIDTOWN HOTEL--
GOTHAM ARMS

--A SINISTER FIGURE SCANS A CROWD...
MY PIGEON SHOULD BE PASSING THIS WAY! HE'S THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE BIOPHYSICS CONVENTION--
-- AND THOSE GUYS ARE THE CONVENTIONEERS!
SNAP

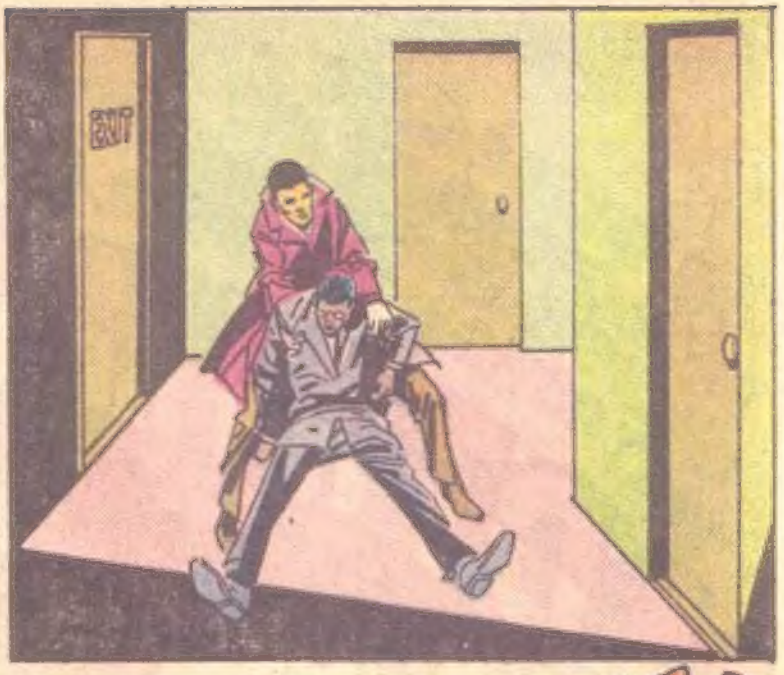
THERE HE IS-- DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE! I'D BETTER WAIT TILL HE'S ALONE BEFORE I PUT MY PROPOSITION TO HIM!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE ELEVATOR... PROBABLY GOING TO HIS ROOM! AND SOMEBODY'S STICKING TO HIM LIKE GLUE--
-- MAYBE SOMEBODY WITH THE SAME IDEA I HAVE!

I'LL JUST DRIFT IN WITH THEM...

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH FLOOR...
PARDON ME, DOCTOR BLAINE! MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?
WHAT IS IT?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

HOK!

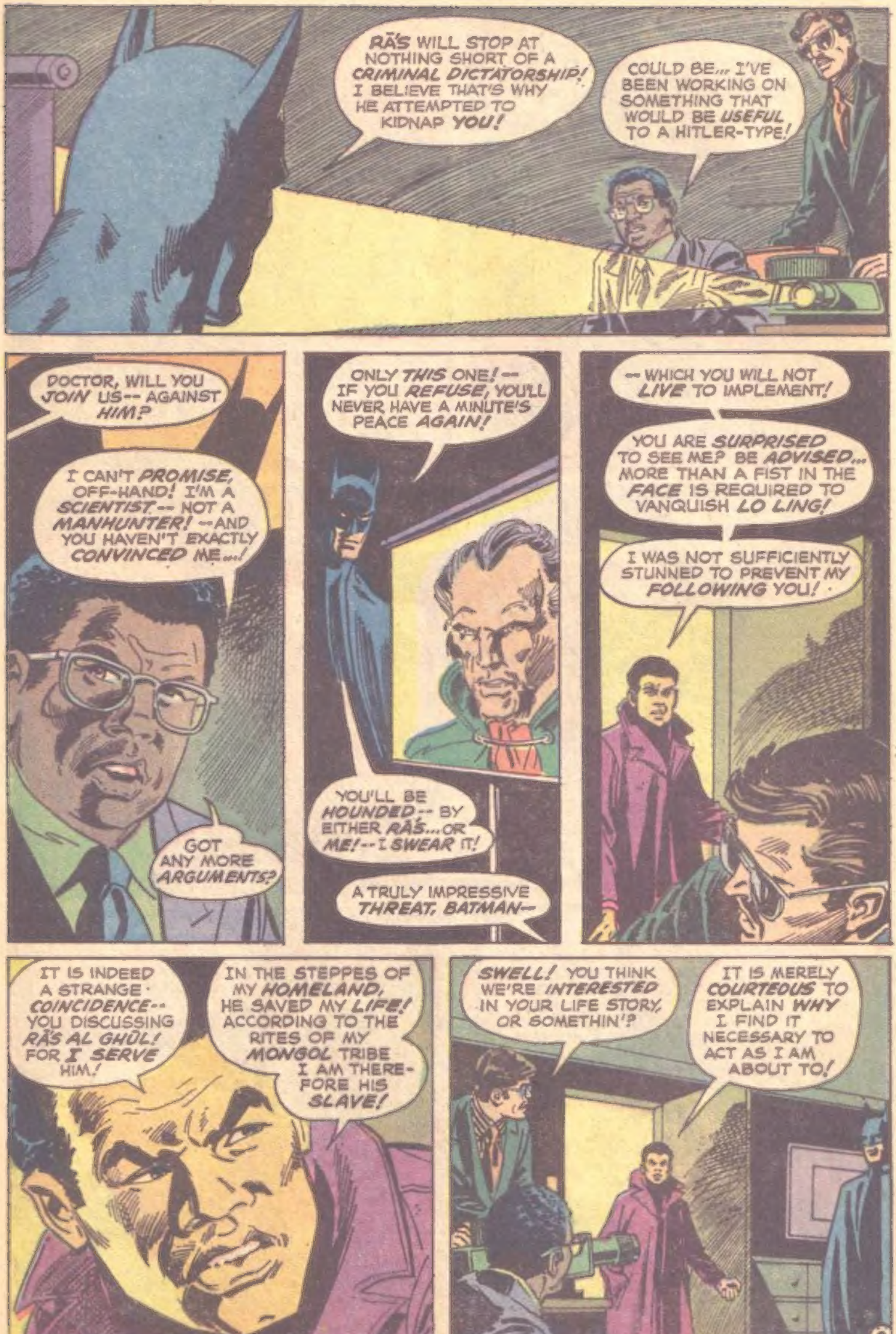

EXIT

CHUFF!

WOWP

I'LL CARRY HIM OUT ON THE FIRE ESCAPE... THEN ACROSS THE ALLEY TO THE NEXT BUILDING!

RISE AN' SHINE, CHUM! DRINK THE WATER-- AN' TALK TO ME!
W-WHERE AM I?-- WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE IN A PRIVATE SUITE--
--AN' YOU'RE JAWIN' WITH MATCHES MALONE-- EX-HONCHO OF THE WATERFRONT MOB!
SOME BOZO TRIED TO PUT THE SNATCH ON YOU! I COOLED 'IM... 'COUNT OF MY LEADER WANTS CONVERSATION WITH YOU!
YOUR... LEADER?
GREETINGS, DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE!
YEAH... NAME OF THE BATMAN!
YOU'RE DOUBTLESS WONDERING THE REASON I HAD YOU BROUGHT TO ME!
THIS IS THAT REASON... A MASTER OF EVIL CALLED RĀS AL GHŪL! ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I'VE CLASHED WITH HIM AND HIS DAUGHTER, TALIA...
...EACH TIME WE CAME TO A STALEMATE! I ACKNOWLEDGE I CANNOT DEFEAT HIM BY MYSELF!
--AND I'VE CONCLUDED HE MUST BE DEFEATED! HE'S MAD FOR POWER... WORLD-WIDE POWER--
--AND HE HAS BOTH THE GENIUS AND THE ORGANIZATION TO ATTAIN HIS GOAL!
8


RĀ'S WILL STOP AT NOTHING SHORT OF A CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP! I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY HE ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP YOU!
COULD BE... I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO A HITLER-TYPE!
DOCTOR, WILL YOU JOIN US-- AGAINST HIM?
I CAN'T PROMISE, OFF-HAND! I'M A SCIENTIST -- NOT A MANHUNTER! --AND YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY CONVINCED ME...!
GOT ANY MORE ARGUMENTS?
ONLY THIS ONE! -- IF YOU REFUSE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A MINUTE'S PEACE AGAIN!
YOU'LL BE HOUNDED -- BY EITHER RĀ'S... OR ME! -- I SWEAR IT!
A TRULY IMPRESSIVE THREAT, BATMAN--
-- WHICH YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO IMPLEMENT!
YOU ARE SURPRISED TO SEE ME? BE ADVISED... MORE THAN A FIST IN THE FACE IS REQUIRED TO VANQUISH LO LING!
I WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STUNNED TO PREVENT MY FOLLOWING YOU!
IT IS INDEED A STRANGE COINCIDENCE-- YOU DISCUSSING RĀ'S AL GHŪL! FOR I SERVE HIM!
IN THE STEPPES OF MY HOMELAND, HE SAVED MY LIFE! ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF MY MONGOL TRIBE I AM THEREFORE HIS SLAVE!
SWELL! YOU THINK WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOUR LIFE STORY, OR SOMETHIN'?
IT IS MERELY COURTEOUS TO EXPLAIN WHY I FIND IT NECESSARY TO ACT AS I AM ABOUT TO!

MASTER RÄS AL GHŪL CHARGED ME TO CAPTURE DOCTOR BLAINE-- UNLESS I HAPPENED TO MEET THE BATMAN!
IN SUCH AN INSTANCE, MY GREATEST PRIORITY IS TO ELIMINATE THE BATMAN-- A COMMAND THE MASTER'S DAUGHTER DISAGREES WITH, BY THE WAY!
HOWEVER, I AM NOT TALIA'S CREATURE-- BUT HER FATHER'S! THUS--
-- RÄS AL GHŪL'S FOE--
-- DIES!
SHUNK!
AS TWO-FISTED JUSTICE BY A GIANT
MALONE GRUNTS, AND SHOUTS--
YA DIRTY... MURDERING SWINE! I'LL PUT YA ON A SLAB PERSONALLY!
10

AT THAT SAME INSTANT, THE GLOBE PROTECTORS BOSS AT HIS VICTOR NAME IS DYES--
CAN'T SEE!
AND EVEN AS HIS VISION CLEARS...
GONE?!--THE BATMAN'S CORPSE AND THE ORIENTAL--VANISHED!
YEAH--I WAS BLINDED, SAME AS YOU!
YOU BEAT FEET TO THE LOBBY, DOC... MAYBE YOU CAN SPOT LING!
I... I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED!
LOOK... YOU'RE THE BIG HUMANITARIAN! YOU WANT TO HELP MANKIND? WELL, YOU CAN START BY CHASIN' A KILLER!
NOW... MOVE!
ALL RIGHT!
TIME TO RETIRE MATCHES MALONE-- THOUGH NOT AS PERMANENTLY AS THE REAL MALONE WAS RETIRED BY HIS OWN BULLET--
--THE SLUG THAT RICOCHETED IN THE CAFE AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE HEART!

I BLINDED BLAINE DELIBERATELY--SO HE WOULDN'T SEE LO LING GOING AWAY FROM THE ELEVATORS AND TOWARD THE ROOF!
THE MONGOL IS MEAN... TOUGH...
...TOO ROUGH FOR A MAN WHOSE HEAVIEST WORK IS HOISTING TEST TUBES!
THUD...
LING--!
UH--? IT IS NOT POSSIBLE! I FLUNG A BLADE INTO YOUR HEART!
ALTHOUGH I AM A MIGHTY WARRIOR... A GREAT BANDIT... I AM NO MATCH FOR A GHOST!
CAREFUL... YOU'LL FALL!
BUT THE BATMAN'S WARNING REACHES THE BANDIT CHIEF A TAD TOO LATE! HIS FOOT SLIPS ON THE SLICK TILES... HE SLIDES...
DESPERATE FINGERS GROPE... FIND A GRIP ON AN ANCIENT, RUSTING RAINGUTTER--

WITH A SMALL, DULL CREAK, THE GUTTER PULLS LOOSE FROM ITS MOORINGS...
I GO TO MY ANCESTORS... THAT, OR THE GODS INTERVENE!
ABRUPTLY THE BATMAN TURNS AND STRIDES QUICKLY AWAY--!
A MOMENT... TWO... AND THE METAL TEARS COMPLETELY FREE... LEAVING THE MONGOL FLAILING HELPLESSLY IN EMPTY AIR... SIX HUNDRED FEET FROM THE PAVEMENT BELOW!
HE PLUMMETS-- INTO A PAIR OF CABLE-STRONG ARMS REACHING FROM A WINDOW DIRECTLY BENEATH!
SORRY FOR THE SCARE, LING! I SAW I COULDN'T REACH YOU FROM THE ROOF... THOUGHT I MIGHT MANAGE IT FROM HERE!
YOUR RESCUE EMBARRASSES ME, GHOST-BAT! FOR IT OBLIGATES ME TO YOU-- EVEN AS I AM OBLIGATED TO RĀS AL GHŪL!
I'M CALLING THAT OBLIGATION, LO LING! I'M CHARGING YOU WITH THE TASK OF HELPING SMASH RĀS AND HIS DEMONS!
YOU, DOCTOR BLAINE AND MATCHES MALONE ARE TO MEET ME A WEEK HENCE-- I'LL SAY WHERE LATER!
3

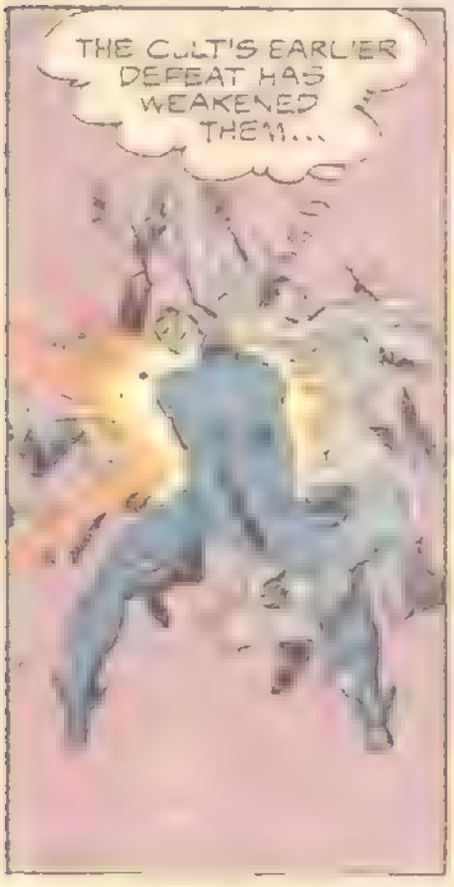
ALONE, THE BATMAN
I'VE BEGUN IT-- THE WAR WITH RAS AL GHUL! -- THE WAR ONLY ONE OF US CAN SURVIVE!
ON HIS SIDE, DOZENS OF TRAINED SOLDIERS-- ASSASSINS--
--AND ON MINE, A RELUCTANT SCIENTIST, A SUPERSTITIOUS BANDIT, AND A DEAD GANGSTER!
THOSE... AND THIS DUMMY I RIGGED TO DROP INTO A TRAP-DOOR-- A STAND-IN BATMAN!
--A MANNEQUIN WITH A RADIO RECEIVER IN ITS HEAD TUNED TO RECEIVE SUB-VOCALIZATIONS I TRANSMIT FROM A TINY THROAT-MIKE!
A FEW GIMMICKS AND THREE MEN AGAINST THE ARMY... THE GENIUS... OF RAS!
IF I WERE A GAMBLER, I'D BET ON THE ENEMY!
KLIK!
HE'S GOT ALL THE ODDS, NO DENYING IT! ME-- I'VE GOT MY THREE AND MY SILLY GADGETS...
...AND ONE THING MORE! DETERMINATION... A CONVICTION THAT I'M FIGHTING FOR RIGHT!
YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE BEGINNING... SOON YOU ARE DESTINED TO WITNESS--The End

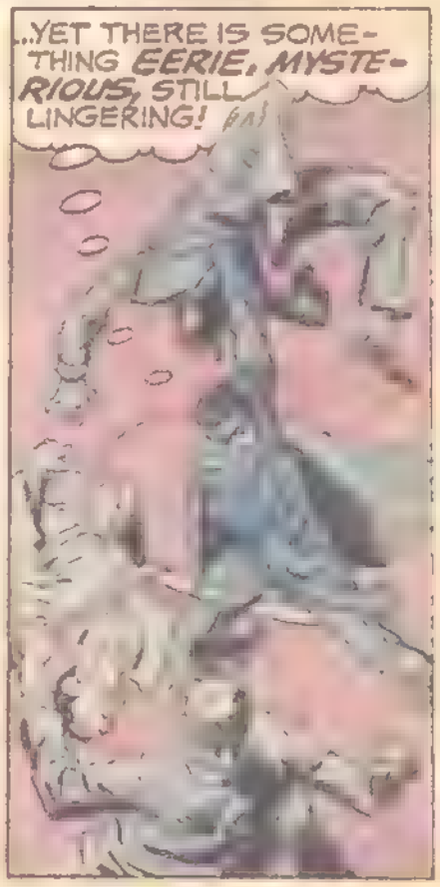
WAKE UP--
ROBIN
SCRIPT: MIKE FRIEDRICH
ART: RICH BUCKLER
INKS: DICK GIORDANO
--DANGER IS SLICING THE AIR!
-- AND YOU ARE REACHING YOUR
DEATH-POINT!

YIIIPE!
BETTER SNAP TO IT...
...AND KEEP MY COOL--
...OR AS THE ELDERS SAY--
-- KEEP MY HEAD!
AS OUR TEEN TITAN BATTLES A SECOND IS TENDING TO THE WOUNDED...
TERRI, ARE YOU OKAY?
I... I'M ALMOST RECOVERED, LILITH!
OUR MENTAL LINK WAS TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN ON MY NEWLY-TRAINED SENSES!
BUT NOW WE MUST USE THAT "PSYCHIC CHANNEL" TO HELP ROBIN! HE'S IN DANGER, AND--
OH, NO!!

THE CTHULHU CULTISTS HAVE REVIVED! THEY'RE ON THE ATTACK AGAIN!
AFTER US-- OUR VERY LIVES!
WE MUST REINFORCE OUR COMBINED MENTAL POWERS-- ROUT THE DEMON!

BUT TO GET TO TERRI AND LILITH, THE FANATICS MUST GET THROUGH ROBIN!...






ALMOST AS IF TO FULFILL ROBIN'S PORTENT OF EVIL, A CHILLING SHRIEK GUSHES FROM THE PIT OF A DAMNED SOUL--

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, SANITY SHATTERS, AND ITS BITS AND PIECES SLOWLY COALESCE..
...FORMING AN INCREDIBLE APPARITION...
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I SEE! THAT... THAT HIDEOUS THING... TAKING CONTROL OF TERRI!
--SHE'S BEGINNING TO CHANGE--
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, LILITH--FAST! BEFORE IT'S--
--TOO LATE!
ROBIN-- LOOK AT HER FACE--HER EYES! THEY'VE CHANGED!
SHE'S POSSESSED LOOK OUT!
HER STRENGTH-- IT'S UNHUMAN!
... CAN'T... BREAK... HOLD... BLACKING OUT... UNNNNN...
4

THE WANING FIGURE OF ROBIN SLUMPS, DRAINED OF ENERGY AND WILL! THEN, EVIL-INSPIRED TERRI TURNS ON HER COUSIN...
THOSE DEMON EYES...
...DIRECTED AT ME WITH A SPECIAL VENGEANCE.
THEY MIRROR A VOLCANO OF PSYCHIC ENERGY--TAPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME!
MY E.S.P... NO DEFENSE AGAINST-- OHHHH!
ABRUPTLY, THERE IS AN EERIE STILLNESS...
...FOLLOWED BY THE HUSHED SOBS THAT ECHO IN THE FOOTFALLS OF A FLEEING GIRL FEARING HER DEMON-CONTROLLED FUTURE...
...YET EVEN MORE FEARFUL OF HER DESTRUCTIVE PAST!
LATER...
UNN!: I FEEL LIKE ALL MY STRENGTH HAS LEFT ME--MAYBE IT HAS!
OWWWH! THAT LUMP TERRI GAVE ME WILL DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE MY LOOKS!
HEY, WHERE'D THEY ALL GO?
THE CULTISTS--THEY'RE GONE! PROBABLY RAN OFF!
THEY WEREN'T REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS ANYWAY--AND BESIDES, THEY LEFT BEHIND THEIR LEADER FOR US TO GATHER UP!

TIME: THE FOLLOWING MORNING. CHARACTERS: DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON AND LILITH...
I ARRIVED JUST AFTER TERRI CONTACTED ME MENTALLY--THEN THE ACT ON STARTED. WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE?
TERRI WAS SEEKING YOU OUT FOR SOME TIME...
...IT WAS HERE THAT SHE CLAIMED THE "COSMIC VIBRATIONS" WERE RIGHT--
--AND USED ME AS A MENTAL LINK TO REACH YOU!
THE CULT HAD BEEN USING THE NEARBY PUBLIC LAND BEFORE--AND BECAME FANATICAL ABOUT ITS NEW ACTIVITIES!
STUDENTS OF HUDSON U ARE HELPING TO REMODEL THE RUNDOWN PARK TO GAIN SOME PRACTICAL EDUCATION!
IN THIS "ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND" AREA, YOUNGSTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CREATE AND BUILD THEIR OWN PLAY MATERIALS!
TERRI AND I ARE SUPERVISORS! I'M HOPING SHE TURNS UP HERE!
TERRI...
TERRI... SHE WAS THERE ALL ALONG... WAITING FOR US!
NOW SHE'S GOING TO--
--ATTACK!
SHE'S USING TELEKINESIS--MIND-OVER-MATTER!
THEN SHE'S STILL DEMON-POSSESSED! BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE FINISH US BEFORE?
6

BETTER SWITCH TO ROBIN--FAST!
HER MIND IS BENT ON DESTROYING ME--YET SOME PART OF IT WON OVER HER EARLIER AND MADE HER STOP!
BUT WILL SHE STOP THIS TIME--?!
ONE LETHAL MOMENT LATER...
TERRI--NO!
TERRI'S ACTIVATED A WOODEN "SAW-HORSE"! TOO WEAK TO DODGE...
TRAINED REFLEXES ACT INSTANTLY, AND...
I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THERE'S SOMETHING PUZZLING HERE!
PROBABLY IN FRONT OF MY NOSE--BUT I CAN'T SEE IT!
"SEE--"! THAT'S IT! TERRI'S EYES--THEY'RE JUST LIKE THOSE OTHERS--THE CULTISTS!
IT'S BEGINNING TO COME CLEAR--JUST EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO TERRI!
BUT, ROBIN, THE DEMON THAT'S CONTROLLING HER--
7

--DOES NOT REALLY EXIST! WHEN TERRI AND YOU HELPED DEFEAT THE CULTISTS, YOUR PSYCHIC ENERGY MUST HAVE CREATED A MENTAL FEEDBACK!
SINCE TERRI WAS DRAWING MOST OF HER POWERS FROM YOU, SHE ABSORBED THE IMPACT--IN THE FORM OF THAT DEMON-THING WE SAW!
DEEP DOWN, SHE BLAMES US--SPECIFICALLY YOU--FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!
IT'S UP TO YOU, LILITH! REACH THAT "DEEP-DOWN"--NOW--
--BEFORE SHE DOES US IN WITH HER NEW-FOUND POWERS!
FOR AN INSTANT, LILITH HESITATES AS SHE SENSES AND FEAR AND TERROR THAT TERRI HOLDS.
DEEP WITHIN TERRI'S MIND AND CONFRONTS THE DEMON IN ITS WAKEFULNESS!
IT WORKED! HER DEMON IS EXORCISED!! APPARENTLY THERE IS A MAGNIFICATION OF TERRI'S PSYCHIC POWERS WHEN YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER!
THAT LINK MAY BE ENOUGH TO BRING IT BACK!
--WHAT HAPPENED?
HER MIND HAS BLOCKED OUT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED--
BUT YOU HAD BETTER GO BEFORE--
YES--I KNOW!
WE COULDN'T MEET...YET WE MUST NOW LEAVE EACH OTHER--AVOID EACH OTHER!
--LEST WE LET LOOSE THAT DEMON AGAIN!
GOOD-BYE, TERRI--PERHAPS SOMEDAY...
SOME DAY...
END

# LETTERS TO THE BATMAN

*Dear Editor:*

Absolutely fantastic! *Batman* #239 just has to be something special—a real Christmas present. I enjoyed the cover-logo's red-green coloring. Neal Adams' cover, artistically beautiful as usual.

The lead story, "Silent Night, Deadly Night," was very good. Denny O'Neil has done it again with the magic touch of humanity he injects into most of his work. The splendid way Denny writes, I wish we had Christmas every month!

Moving right along, we get into this issue's *Batman* reprint. And it turns out to be an extravaganza in itself! A Christmas special, as well as a Golden Ager. I see that "The Loneliest Men in the World" also contained a great deal of delightful humanity. Nothing less than a masterpiece.

Now on to my favorite segment of this issue, the *Robin* solo-story. I figured somebody at DC, after attacking drugs, overpopulation, *et al.*, would get into the Jesus movement, and you did quite a beautiful job, too. I agree with Gerry to some degree, and a little bit with *Robin*, too. As for Rick Asher, whom the *Teen Wonder* plans to help next issue, I just couldn't help but identify with him, somewhat. I, too, feel bound and gagged when confronted by a Jesus freak, or a Bible pusher, and I get very confused. I believe that the movement is fine for the people who believe in it, but trying to hook people who would rather not be bothered with it is going somewhat overboard. Maybe it's that these Jesus people have nothing else to turn to. Maybe it's a safer route than drugs. I don't know . . . I just don't know. Personally, I could not see myself getting into either. These are hard times, and every individual is in search of answers. But I don't think I could discover satisfaction in either of these.

Well, so much for my life story. You have launched what I know will be an excellent two-part tale, and I'm very anxious to read the rest of it. Oh, by the way—I've been wondering . . . is Berni in the *Robin* tale supposed to be Denny O'Neil's chum, Berni Wrightson, who helped with the idea for "Night of the Reaper"?

*—GUY SHARWOOD, Fresno, Ca.*

*(That Bernie is right, son:—JS)*

*Dear Editor:*

Ah, nostalgia! Nostalgia such as I haven't seen the like of in *Batman* for quite some time! I guess I bought the February issue mainly because of the Christmas cover. The "*Batman* in a beard" looked like something one of the artists from the '40's would have done.

And the story . . . well, how can I put it? First of all, O'Neil's basic plots have a way of being consistently shaky, while the stories themselves are very good. I guess I still kinda get a lump in my throat with endings such as this. I liked the touch in panel 4 of page 6 where *Batman* talks about fighting while the sign reads, "Peace on Earth"! .

But to me, the meat of the issue was the classic reprint. I don't now, and never will have any use for a teen-age *Robin*, a yellow glob around the *Bat*-emblem, and various other "New Look" innovations, so these trips to the past are very enjoyable to me. Even though "The Loneliest Men in Town" was published before I was born, this is *THE BATMAN* I grew up with in the '50's and '60's and to me the only *REAL Batman*. The art style was great. Not meant to be realistic, but mysterious. The square-chinned *Batman*, the wide-eyed *Robin*.

Story number three, now . . . Hmmm. A teen-age *Robin* that is older than this 22 year-old. Nice to see Rich Buckler art. I used to correspond with Rich before he went pro. Congrats to him; he did a fine job. Friedrich, it would seem, knows a bit about the campus scene. The picture presented of the Jesus Freaks was almost accurate. I really can't see them fighting, though. At least not the ones we have where I go to school at the University of Texas. I think the author may have carried his characterizations a bit far there. However, the rebuttals of the non-Christians were very stock and typical. I've seen many Christians at UT get the same treatment as on pages 4 and 5. Anyway, the solo *Robin* stories fail to really turn me on, I guess, because they are so contemporary—in fact, *too* contemporary. I still see *Batman* and *Robin* as being in the '40's, and I'm stuck with that image.

All in all, a very good issue. Even with all my criticism, one of the best in a long while!

*—LYNN WOOLLEY, Austin, Texas*

*(So far, LOCs of* peace *and* good will. *Now an "appalling" note.*—JS)

*Dear Editor:*

As a constant fan of *Batman*, I was deeply appalled by the story "Silent Night, Deadly Night" contained in issue #239. I might add here that *Batman's* deviation from law and common sense in this issue was a shocking example of a new permissiveness that I hope will never reappear in your pages.

Let us consider "Uncle Tim", the apparent guardian of the otherwide homeless Betsy. Our dear friend Tim is guilty of assaulting street corner Santas in order to steal money intended for charities, assaulting and attempting to kill with a broken string of Christmas bulbs a duly appointed law-enforcer *Batman*, breaking and entering into the home of Rich-

ard Lee Evans, causing the old man's near fatal heart attack, though Tim relented at the last minute [illegible] him, and lastly, our hero-villain or villain-hero is guilty of contributing to the delinquency [illegible] Betsy who under Tim's direction refused to untie *Batman* in order to allow him to carry out [illegible] legal responsibilities, thereby obstructing justice.

In retaliation, *Batman* hands over to the criminal a wad of bills and suggests they *discuss* Tim's "difficulties with the law" the following week, as dear Tim has had a change of heart and has decided to become merciful.

O.K., Tim had a change of heart, but let us illustrate the *Batman's* error with an example from the real-life news. In 1970, a young Chicago gentleman was arrested for stabbing a young lady with a butcher knife. Now it was obvious to the judge that this individual had not really meant to commit the crime and that the entire incident occurred only because he either lived in a ghetto, was beaten in infancy by a cruel mother, or because Mayor Daley did not love him quite enough. Consequently, the judge paroled the man society had transgressed upon. November, 1971, our indigent was arrested for the murder of a 15 year-old girl found stabbed 25 times.

In essence, *Batman* has placed innocent Betsy in the grips of a man with a penchant toward murder, already illustrated by his attempt to strangle *Batman*. Who knows when our friend may next go "out of his head" and again attempt to destroy whatever [illegible] he considers responsible for his own financial degradation? Already Betsy considered it a "sin" to disobey her uncle whether or not he is operating on moral principles. Is the girl safe living with a potential murderer? And is society safe when such a man so obviously in need of psychiatric care is allowed to walk the streets?

—*C.W. CHARLES, N. Manchester, Ind.*

*(Compare this reader's outrage with the next one's compassion . . . and maybe that's what humanity is all about.—JS)*

*Dear Editor:*

*The Batman* magazine seems to be cruising into some fine weather. First, last issue's excellent Halloween story, and now, "Silent Night, Deadly Night." These two holiday issues have been some of the best adventures *Batman* has had in quite awhile.

I must admit that holiday stories have a special attraction for me. I enjoy seeing acknowledgment of the happy spirit in the air. These seasons are only too brief a respite from the rest of the days of the year and they are to be cherished.

Denny O'Neil seems to be the only writer able to really bring across a battle-hardened, angry *Batman*. *The Batman* has been through more than his share of hardships, pitting his life against criminal after criminal. He is a toughened policeman who has no time for games.

Enter Tim, also an embittered man. He has been driven to commit criminal acts against his character. His frustration screams to be unleashed, which leads to violence. He is our character to sympathize with. Even *The Batman* has been guilty of the above. Tim, however, has a young dependent. Through her, we condone Tim's actions; not agree with, mind you, but *condone*.

It is the concept of right and wrong, on the part of *Batman* and Tim both, that gives the story its interest and the concern we feel both for Tim and Betsy and *Batman's* mere intensity that gives the story its movement.

This tale exemplifies the importance of some character-development in comix. The personalities in color and I want to thank all involved in the story's production. It was a job well done.

—*JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.*

*Dear Editor:*

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" is wonderful Christmas reading but a difficult story to evaluate. After the first reading I sat back and marveled at the high-calibre characterizations and expert use of thoughtolog of that dynamo Denny O'Neil, at the skill of I. Novick and Dick Giordano in giving the story high-grain *usual impact*, also at the *wisdom* and *good common sense* of the editor for not trying to sell the reader schwartzat *Christmas tyme*. After this primary evaluation I had to read the story twice over before I could appraise its *true* value. I found the character to be *outstanding: Batman* is at his best; the no-nonsense Santa is wonderfully realistic; Uncle Tim is totally believable; Betsy is as precious as she is obedient; Richard L. Evans is as colorful as he is neglected. As for the artwork, I am *intreeged* by the fight scenes on pages 4 and 5. Other items I admire are the *symbolism* of the broken doll's head on page 13, and the correlation of the colors in the *Batman* symbol to the story material. My only complaint about the artwork is it tends to be too harshly lighted.

In judging "The Loneliest Men in the World" I feel its strength lies in its nostalgia value and the talents of Bob Kane. In addition, I feel the value of the story has not improved with age.

The *Robin* story, "Soul-Pit," has a strong, well-constructed script. The high points are the author's handling of Gerry and the missionary on page 3 and the way he shows how fanatical people of the cloth can become (page 4, panel 5). The only weakness of the story is the unoriginal approach in the style of the artwork; although each of the characters is well drawn, the story has a low-budget look.

Finally, due to the recent advances in your company's *TOP FIVE to Ten Titles* I have come to the conclusion that we are now in the Platinum Age of Comix (of course, one can still find traces of Iron, Nickel, and Osmium).

—*WILLIAM G. LAKS, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*

*Dear Editor:*

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" affects me strangely. On the one hand, the artwork and story were superb. On the other hand, we've seen too many of these "hand of providence" stories with *Batman* in the last few years. But let's keep this one and mark one of the others as being excessive. I like this one too much. It's this type of work that makes me upset when this same team—mainly, O'Neil, Novick, Giordano, and Schwartz—lets an inferior piece of work go to press because of deadline. *C'est la guerre!*

—*BOB ABRAHAMS, Rego Park, N.Y.*

*Dear Editor:*

As did "The Silent Night of The Batman" of two years ago, "Silent Night, Deadly Night" was one good story, likely to receive unanimous approval. I was going to go into a lengthy essay telling why, but perhaps in a story like this one, it would be best to leave it at that. And I can't think of any new adjectives—they've all been said.

—*JEFF RISTINE, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**Address communications to LETTERS TO THE** BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 **Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.**

Inside a prison, at the mercy of criminals, **SUPERBOY** winds up in "An Iron Cage for a Hero!" That's the lead story in the **June** issue **(#187)**—but it's not all! There's a tale that brings "The Return of Superbaby's Pal"—Gary, the little witch-boy! Is that enough? No? Then how about a **Dial "H" for Hero** adventure of **Robby Reed?** If you don't know about **Robby,** who never knows what hero he'll be next, meet him in "The Monster-Maker of Littleville!" On sale **April 25.**

Here comes the historic moment you've waited for—the meeting between **TARZAN OF THE APES** and lovely **Jane Porter!** It's called "A Mate for the Ape-Man!" In it you'll learn how the **Jungle Lord** first comes into contact with civilized men—as adapted from Edgar Rice Burroughs' **Tarzan of the Apes** by Editor-Artist Joe Kubert. There's a text story from the early **Tarzan** Sunday pages, illoed by the great Hal Foster! And, of course, **John Carter of Mars!** It's **#209 (June),** on sale **April 27!**

**The Batman** proves once again why he's called the **World's Greatest DETECTIVE,** in the **June** issue **(#424),** when he tackles a baffling case of "Double-Cross-Fire!" In the same issue is "Batgirl's Last Case!" What? The **Dominoed Dare-Doll** singing her swan song? Maybe—maybe not! There's a **Sierra Smith** mystery—"The Case of the Teetering Tower!" Finally, a **Detective Classic**—"The Cop Who Shot 1,000 Crooks"—**with a camera, we might add!** It's on sale **April 27.**

Can magic destroy the mighty **Man of Steel?** Read the **June ACTION (#413)** and witness "The Voodoo Doom of Superman!" Then, having read that terrific tid-bit, turn to the new **Metamorpho** tale—"The Seven Sins of Simon Stagg!" This new series on the **Element Man** is being acclaimed by all who've seen it! And there's a classic tale of **Eclipso,** the man who is both hero and villain! It's called "The Man Who Destroyed Eclipso!" On sale **April 27.**

**Supergirl** comes up against a strange group of wizards in a tale of alien evil called "And Death Shall Have No Dominion," in the **June ADVENTURE (#420).** There's also a classic adventure in which the **Maid of Might** tackles a "Monster from Krypton"—not knowing it's really a transformed **Superman!** Then you can join a "Rodeo" with **The Vigilante;** but watch out for a guy with a rifle, determined that the show will **not** go on! There's a **Zatanna** adventure, too! On sale **April 27.**

# DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH...

# BATMAN and ROBIN

COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST HAD THE BATMAN RESCUED INNOCENT HUMANS FROM DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT BY UNEARTHING TRUE EVIDENCE THAT TRAPPED THE REAL CRIMINAL. BUT WHO IS THERE TO SAVE THE BATMAN HIMSELF FROM SUCH A PREDICAMENT? FOR NOW, THE BATMAN FACES THE SUPREME TEST OF HIS CAREER! HELPLESS, BOUND IN A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, HE MUST SOMEHOW ENTANGLE THE REAL CRIMINAL IN LINKS OF HIS OWN MAKING! HOW HE DOES SO WITH THE TIMELY AID OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, MAKES AN ABSORBING STORY WHEN WE READ OF "THE PEOPLE VS. THE BATMAN"

BOB KANE

A CLOAKED FIGURE PADS SILENTLY THRU A DARK CORRIDOR. AHEAD, A PATH OF LIGHT DRAWS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LIKE A FLAME DRAWS A MOTH --

PRESENTING A MILESTONE IN THE CAREER OF THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER-- ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN BATMAN #7; OCT.-NOV., 1941.

LISTEN, HORATIO, ABOUT THAT POULTRY RACKET JOB--
YOU GOTTA GET... HOLD IT, SOMEONE'S OUTSIDE!
OH, HELLO! I WAS JUST WAITING FOR A STREET CAR!
AAK! IT'S THE BATMAN!
WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS, THE MANTLED INTRUDER SWEEPS FORWARD!
I ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE TO STEAL A MARCH ON YOUR OPPONENT!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
NOW... I THINK WE OUGHT TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK!

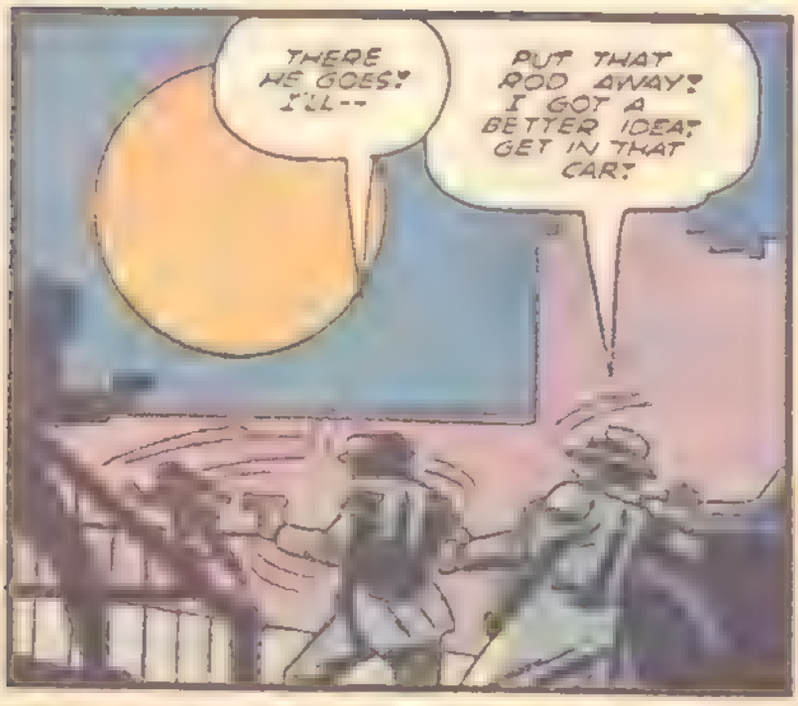
BUT AS THE BATMAN TALKS: A THUG'S FURTIVE HAND REACHES FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH...
AND THE LIGHTS WINK OUT!
OKAY, NOW'S OUR CHANCE! SLUG HIM!
LET'S SCRAM!
THE BATMAN!
STOP! STOP!
SORRY, I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS!
THERE HE GOES!
I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING HERE!
AND FROM A NEARBY HALLWAY--
THEY'RE GONE NOW!
YEAH!... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN IS WISE TO YOU!
LATER... THE HOME OF FREDDIE HILL...
I TELL YA, THE BATMAN'S WISE TO THE FACT THAT DELMAR IS REALLY HEAD OF THE RACKETS IN THIS WARD! SUPPOSE HE MAKES DELMAR TALK - THEN WHAT?
WE GOTTA GET RID OF DELMAR BEFORE THAT HAPPENS! I THINK IT'S TIME I RAN THIS MOB MYSELF-- WEASEL, HERE, IS GONNA BUMP OFF DELMAR--
BUT THE COPS WILL PICK ME UP SURE!
NOT THE WAY I FIGURE IT 'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA GET SOMEONE TO TAKE THE RAP FOR YA! NOW LISTEN- YOU GO TO DELMAR'S PLACE AND WAIT- WAIT FOR A CLIENT - ANY CLIENT TO SHOW UP... AND THEN YOU--
WHAT'S UP?
I REALLY DISCOVERED SOMETHING BIG-- THINK I'LL INVESTIGATE TOMORROW AS BRUCE WAYNE- HE WOULDN'T AROUSE ANY SUSPICION!

THE NEXT MORNING---
WHAT ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT, WEASEL? IT--YES, MISS O'DONALD, WHAT IS IT?...
A MR. WAYNE TO SEE YOU, SIR!
I BETTER GET OUT BY THE BACK DOOR--WON'T LOOK SO GOOD FOR SOMEBODY TA SEE ME-
MR. DELMAR, I WANT SOME HELP ON MY STOCKS THAT--
OOOH!
WITH A CRY, WEASEL HOLES THE GUN UP AND FIRES A SHOT THROUGH HIS OWN HAT!
DROP THAT GUN, MR. WAYNE!
WHAT!
THEN THE MURDERER TOSSES THE SMOKING GUN TO BRUCE---
HERE, CATCH!
INSTINCTIVELY, BRUCE CATCHES THE WEAPON, AS ALL PERSONS WILL DO WHEN OBJECTS ARE TOSSED AT THEM!
MR. WAYNE... YOU KILLED HIM!?
YOU MURDERER!
EEK! HELP! POLICE! MURDER!
AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE ON THE RUN...
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THAT MAN MURDERED MR DELMAR!
HE KILLED HIM!

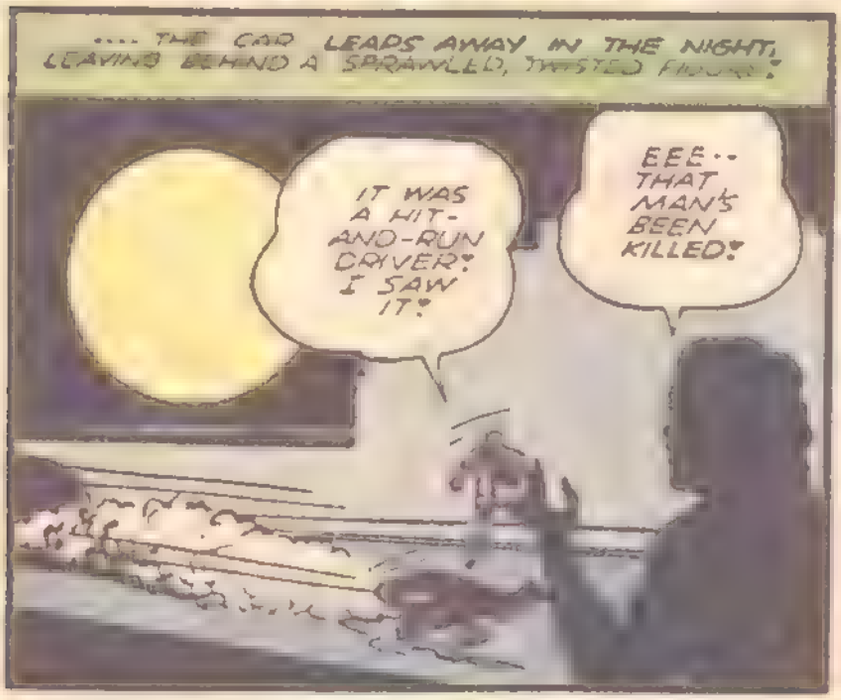
POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, A CLOSE FRIEND OF BRUCE WAYNE'S --- ARRIVES.....
THIS MURDER IS BAD BUSINESS! WHY DID YOU DO IT?
BUT I DIDN'T! THIS RAT, HERE, DID IT, AND THREW THE GUN AT ME! HE FRAMED ME!
HE'S LYING! LOOK--HE EVEN TOOK A SHOT AT ME! LOOK AT THIS HOLE THE BULLET MADE IN MY HAT!
IT'S TRUE! I HEARD MR. VENNER SHOUT, "DROP THAT GUN, MR. WAYNE!" AND WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR, MR. VENNER WAS HITTING BRUCE WAYNE, WHO HELD THE SMOKING GUN IN HIS HAND- HE MURDERED MR. DELMAR
2¢
LY PRESS
SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE CHARGED WITH MURDER!
BUT WHAT REASON HAVE I TO KILL HIM? YOU EVEN ADMIT YOURSELF THIS VENNER HAS AN ALIAS AND A PRISON RECORD!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU DID KILL DELMAR- BUT WHAT CAN I DO? LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE I HAD TO ARREST YOU!
HOWEVER, YOU'RE NOT LICKED YET. KEEP YOUR COURAGE HERE'S DICK TO SEE YOU-
BRUCE! BRUCE! GOLLY!
FUNNY, ISN'T IT...THE MAN WHO IS REALLY THE BATMAN... FRAMED FOR A MURDER RAP!
IT'S THIS LITTLE GUY! I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM TELL THE TRUTH! SOME WAY--SOMEHOW! DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!
THAT NIGHT!
WHAT'S THIS? VENNER! HE'S GOING TO GET A VISIT FROM ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!
ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, TAKES ON A MAN-SIZED JOB...TO FREE HIS PAL AND CRIME'S MIGHTIEST FOE FROM A MURDER CHARGE!

THE NEWSPAPERS SAID THIS WAS VENNER'S ADDRESS—
INSIDE VENNER'S APARTMENT—
WELL, HILL, EVERTHING WORKED OKAY? HEY—WHY THE ARTILLERY?
WE WANTA MAKE SURE, IN CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE STARTS TO BOTHER YOU— SO—WE'RE GONNA FIX IT SO YOU DON'T WORRY ANY MORE!
C'MON, WEASEL, WE'RE TAKIN' YOU FOR A RIDE! THE AIR WILL DO YOU GOOD!
IF THEY KILL HIM, HOW AM I EVER GONNA GET THE TESTIMONY I NEED, BRUCE?
IT'S ROBIN—UGH!
HOW'D YA GUESS IT?
WAIT TILL I TALK TO— OHH...
OUTA MY WAY! THIS MOB IS AFTER ME—THIS IS MY CHANCE TO BEAT IT—
I'M GONNA PLUG THIS BRAT!
FORGET HIM—IT'S WEASEL WE'RE GONNA GET! C'MON!

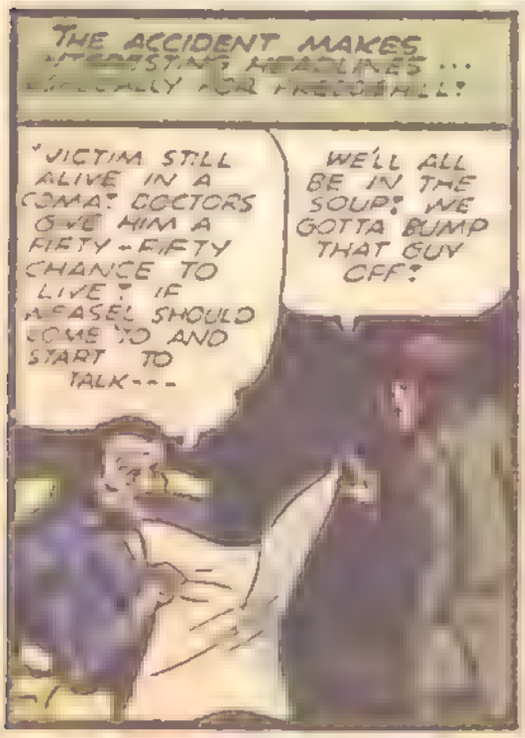
# A BATMAN CLASSIC



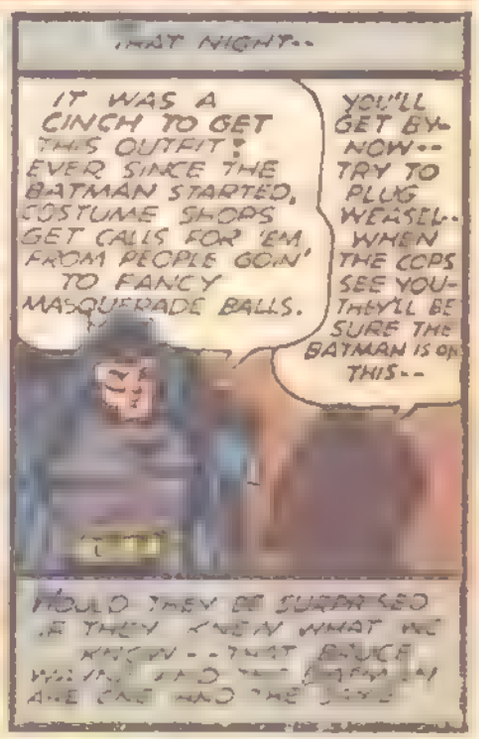
AS THE TROOPED WEASEL VENGER RACES ACROSS THE CLIFTOP, HE TURNS A FULL-STRECHEN FACE UPON A HEAVY CAR THAT BEARS DOWN ON HIM!


.... THE CAR LEAPS AWAY IN THE NIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND A SPRAWLED, TWISTED FIGURE!
IT WAS A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER! I SAW IT!
EEE.. THAT MAN'S BEEN KILLED!

BUT WEASEL IS NOT DEAD---AT LEAST NOT QUITE!
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY DAYS HE'LL BE LIKE THIS! HE'S IN A COMA!
I'LL HAVE TO PUT A POLICE GUARD ABOUT THE ROOM! THIS MAN IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS IN A MURDER TRIAL!

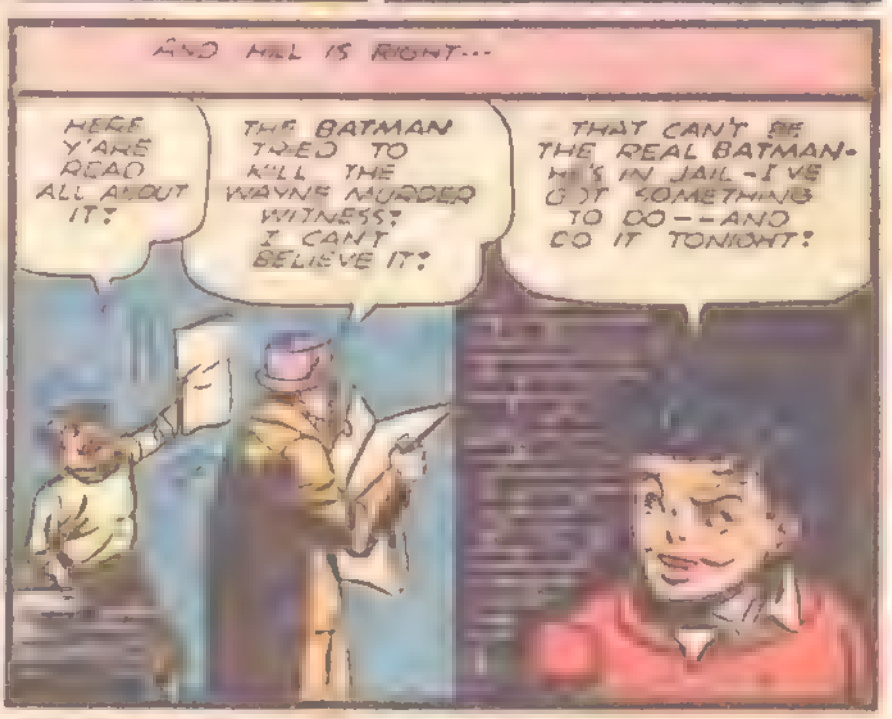

THE ACCIDENT MAKES ...
VICTIM STILL ALIVE IN A COMA! DOCTORS GIVE HIM A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE TO LIVE! IF WEASEL SHOULD COME TO AND START TO TALK---
WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SOUP! WE GOTTA BUMP THAT GUY OFF!

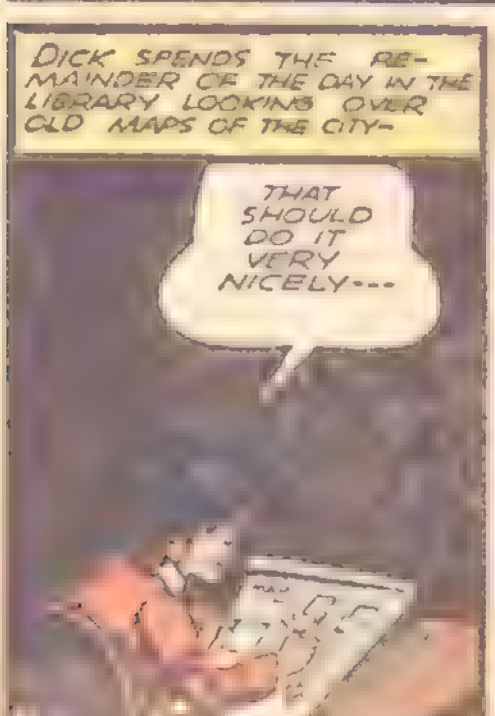
MAYBE THIS ROBIN KID WILL GO TO THE COPPERS AND TELL HOW WE WERE TRYING TO TAKE WEASEL FOR A RIDE!
NOT YET! REMEMBER THAT NIGHT THE COPS SAW THE BATMAN IN OELMAR'S OFFICE? I THINK I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO USE THAT!


THAT NIGHT..
IT WAS A CINCH TO GET THIS OUTFIT! EVER SINCE THE BATMAN STARTED, COSTUME SHOPS GET CALLS FOR 'EM FROM PEOPLE GOIN' TO FANCY MASQUERADE BALLS.
YOU'LL GET BY NOW-- TRY TO PLUG WEASEL. WHEN THE COPS SEE YOU-THEY'LL BE SURE THE BATMAN IS ON THIS--
WOULD THEY BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW WHAT WE KNOW--THAT BRUCE WAYNE AND THE BATMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

# A BATMAN CLASSIC

SOMETIME LATER--
NOT ME.. I'M NOT GOING BACK- THE PLACE IS ALIVE WITH COPPERS.
TAKE IT EASY! JUST GOT A WORD OVER THE RADIO THAT WEASEL AIN'T GONNA LIVE ANYWAYS- ONE THING THOUGH, WE FIXED IT SO THE BATMAN LOOKS GUILTY OF TRYING TO KILL A WITNESS...


AND HE'S IS RIGHT...
HERE Y'ARE READ ALL ABOUT IT!
THE BATMAN TRIED TO KILL THE WAYNE MURDER WITNESS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT CAN'T BE THE REAL BATMAN- HE'S IN JAIL - I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO -- AND DO IT TONIGHT!



BRUCE WAYNE PACES HIS CELL WITH THE RESTLESSNESS OF A CAGED ANIMAL. WHEN-
I'VE GOT TO PROVE I'M INNOCENT... WHAT'S THAT NOISE THERE?

ROBIN! HOW..?
SHHH! I'VE BROUGHT A DUMMY TO TAKE YOUR PLACE--
THE DUMMY IS PLACED ON THE BUNK...
THAT SHOULD KEEP THE GUARDS FOOLED FOR A WHILE- THEY'LL THINK I'M SLEEPING!
WHY, IT'S A SEWER-- HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT?
I READ YOU WERE PLACED IN THE OLD CELL BLOCK HOUSE, BECAUSE THE SEWER BLOCKS WERE BEING REMODELLED. I WENT TO THE LIBRARY AND LOOKED UP SOME OLD MAPS AND FOUND THAT THIS OLD ABANDONED SEWER RAN PARALLEL WITH YOUR CELL- I HAVE YOUR COSTUME WITH ME!
INSTANTS LATER---BRUCE WAYNE BECOMES HIS OTHER DYNAMIC SELF- THE BATMAN!
WHERE TO NOW?
TO DELMAR'S APARTMENT TO LOOK FOR EVIDENCE- THE BATMAN IS GOING TO FIND THE PROOF THAT WILL FREE BRUCE WAYNE!
THIS IS IT! AND FROM THAT CAR OVER THERE, I'D SAY SOMEONE ELSE WAS HERE BEFORE US!
WE CAN'T FIND IT!
THEN KEEP LOOKING! DELMAR HID THOSE RECORDS SOME PLACE! THOSE RECORDS WOULD BLAST ME RIGHT INTO A PRISON CELL, IF THE COPPERS SHOULD FIND THEM!
H'LL--YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE RECORDS, TOO! COINCIDENCE, ISN'T IT?
THE BATMAN!

THE WINNING TEAM SWEEPS INTO ACTION!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU CAN FIGHT!
HERE'S A LITTLE TREATMENT FOR A HEAD-ACHE!
RIGHT ON THE OLD BUTTON!
THE MISSING RECORDS!
HE HAD THEM HIDDEN IN THE TABLE LEG! LOOKS LIKE YOUR NUMBER'S UP, HILL!
NOT YET, IT ISN'T! ONE MOVE AND I'LL BLOW THIS BRAT'S HEAD OFF!
ACTING SMART, EH BATMAN? JOE--AL-- GET UP!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, BATMAN!
SORRY, ROBIN! YOU'RE WORTH MUCH MORE TO ME THAN THOSE RECORDS— OKAY, HILL! YOU WIN!

LATER--ON A DESERTED PIER--WITH IRON TIED TO THEIR FEET, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THROWN TOWARD SWIRLING WATERS!

SO LONG, BATMAN!

DOWN--DOWN--SINK THE WEIGHTED BODIES, DOWN TO THE RIVER BED--

--WHERE DEATH WAITS TO DRIVE THE BREATH FROM THEIR BURSTING LUNGS!

OH, YEAH--? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT-- I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY--BUT I'LL SHOW HILL WHAT IT MEANS TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME-- I GOTTA GET AWAY!

BRUCE WAYNE GOES ON TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF HORATIO DELMAR!

AND WHEN THE NURSE RETURNS, SHE FINDS WEASEL IS--

GONE! HE'S GONE-- THROUGH THAT OPEN WINDOW!

WEASEL HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE COMA, AS HIS NURSE RACES TO CALL THE DOCTOR!

NOW---NOW I REMEMBER-- HILL---HILL DOUBLE-CROSSED ME---I REMEMBER--- WHAT'S THIS?

AND TWO POLICE GUARDS, WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO FETCH BRUCE WAYNE TO TRIAL, RACE BACK TO INFORM THE ASTOUNDED COURT THAT HE, TOO, IS--

GONE! BRUCE WAYNE IS GONE! BROKE OUT!

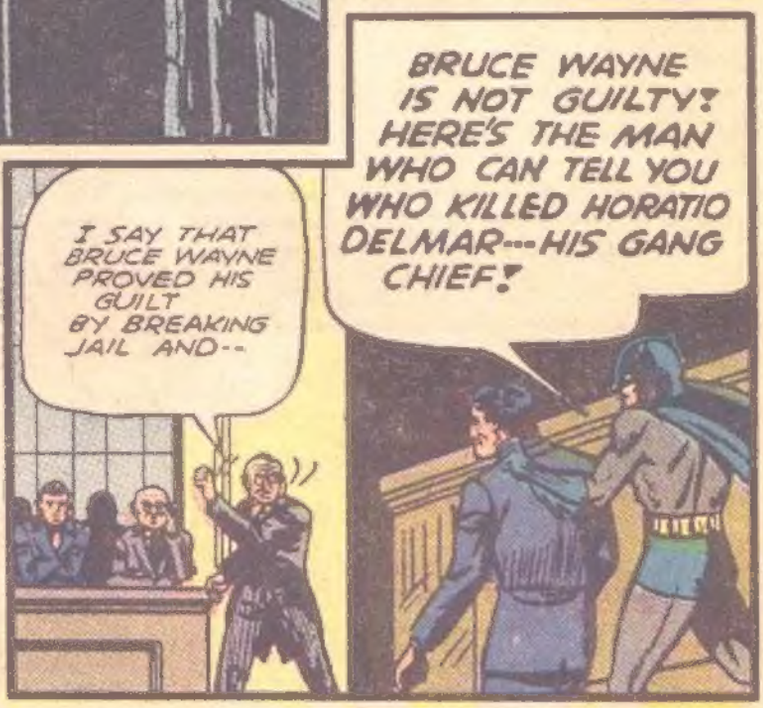
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM-- FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

"FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"--TRUE WORDS! FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!

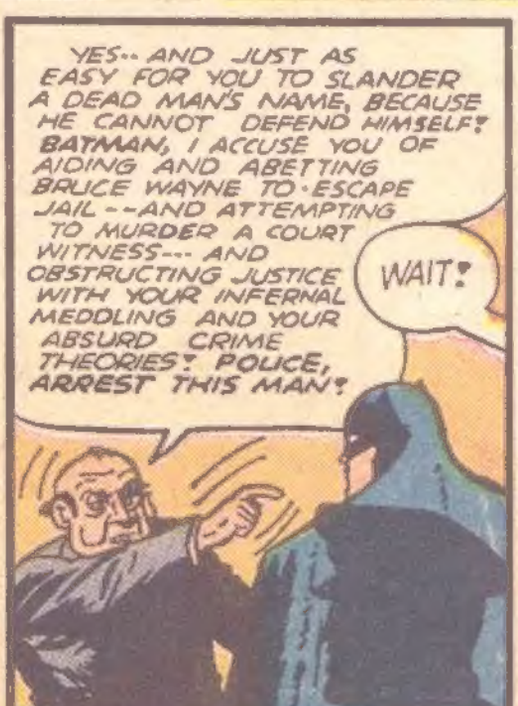
WHAT'S THIS....? A TIN CAN.....!

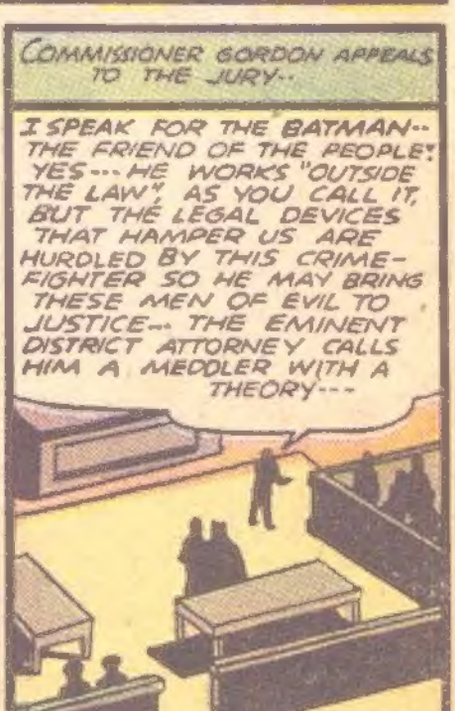
DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RAKES HIS BONDS, BACK AND FORTH, ON THE ROUGH EDGE..... WILL HE FREE HIMSELF IN TIME?

# A BATMAN CLASSIC


I SAY THAT BRUCE WAYNE PROVED HIS GUILT BY BREAKING JAIL AND--
BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT GUILTY! HERE'S THE MAN WHO CAN TELL YOU WHO KILLED HORATIO DELMAR---HIS GANG CHIEF!

BUT THE WILY HILL KNOWS THE RECORDS ARE BURNED AND--
HE'S LYING! HE BEAT ME UP TO TAKE THE RAP FOR BRUCE WAYNE! ASK HIM WHY HE TRIED TO KILL VENNER IN THE HOSPITAL!
YES! THE POLICE SAW YOU THERE WITH A GUN IN YOUR HAND!
IT'S EASY FOR ANYBODY TO PUT ON A BATMAN COSTUME AND THROW SUSPICION ON ME!


YES.. AND JUST AS EASY FOR YOU TO SLANDER A DEAD MAN'S NAME, BECAUSE HE CANNOT DEFEND HIMSELF! BATMAN, I ACCUSE YOU OF AIDING AND ABETTING BRUCE WAYNE TO ESCAPE JAIL--AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER A COURT WITNESS--- AND OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE WITH YOUR INFERNAL MEDDLING AND YOUR ABSURD CRIME THEORIES! POUCE, ARREST THIS MAN!
WAIT!


COMMISSIONER GORDON APPEALS TO THE JURY..
I SPEAK FOR THE BATMAN-- THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE! YES--- HE WORKS "OUTSIDE THE LAW", AS YOU CALL IT, BUT THE LEGAL DEVICES THAT HAMPER US ARE HURDLED BY THIS CRIME-FIGHTER SO HE MAY BRING THESE MEN OF EVIL TO JUSTICE-- THE EMINENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CALLS HIM A MEDDLER WITH A THEORY---

# A BATMAN CLASSIC

WASHINGTON, THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, LINCOLN, EDISON AND OTHERS, THEY WERE "MEDDLERS" TOO -- WHO PROVED THEIR THEORIES. THEY MADE SACRIFICES SO THAT WE MIGHT ENJOY THE SECURITY AND COMFORT WE DO. THE BATMAN HAS DONE THAT, TOO!

THIS MAN WHO HAS SAVED A NATION'S GOLD RESERVE, FOUGHT FIFTH COLUMNISTS AND SABOTEURS, BEATEN THE JOKER, THE PUPPET MASTER, AND OTHER CRIME GENIUSES...

THIS MAN WHO DAILY RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS.. WHO NEVER CARRIES A GUN.. WHO AIDED BY HIS YOUNG FRIEND, ROBIN, FIGHTS CRIME WITH THE COURAGE AND ZEAL BORN OF LOVE FOR HIS FELLOW MAN THIS IS .... THE BATMAN!

PERHAPS THIS COMES A LITTLE LATE, BUT I, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF GOTHAM CITY, APPOINT YOU AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT! FROM NOW ON, YOU WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE POLICE!
THANK YOU, SIR! I WISH NOW THAT I COULD FIND THE PROOF THAT WILL PROVE BRUCE WAYNE'S INNOCENCE!
THUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BATMAN BECAME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF GOTHAM'S POLICE FORCE!

LATER---
THE BATMAN HELPED ME ESCAPE- HE KEPT ME IN A HIDEOUT UNTIL I WAS CLEARED!
YES, I KNOW. HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT JUST BEFORE HE AND ROBIN LEFT! YOU OWE HIM YOUR LIFE!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 27TH